irregularities in the restoration/allotment of flats, which prima facie revealed that serious irregularities had been committed in some cases of restoration/ allotment of SFS flats, and also in respect of refunds in some cases. All these cases have since been handed over to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police for further investigation.

In connection with the similar complaints, the CBI also conducted raids at the residences and offices of 9 DDA officials and 4 property dealers on 10.11.2000. The case is being investigated by the CBI.

The amount of exact loss caused to the DDA would be known only after the investigation by the Delhi Police/CBI is complete.

(b) to (d) The matter being under investigation, action can be taken only on completion of the same.

Whims of builder lobby in DDA

†1578. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whehter it is a fact that work on any scheme of DDA is carried out as per the whims of builder lobby;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) if not, Government's reaction on the news-item appeared serially from 5th October, 2000 to 9th October, 2000 under the caption "DDA ki Kahani-logo ki Jubani" in "Dainik Jagran'; and

(d) what effective action Government propose to take to bring transparency in the work of DDA to check the arbitariness of builder lobby/ mafia and to regain the confidence the public?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that since its inception it had constructed and allotted 2,68,242 flats under various categories upto 31.3.2000. It has looked into the case mentioned in the said report and has taken appropriate action.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Efforts have been made for the simplification of procedures. Details of allotments made and call of tenders are also being computerised.

Development of culturally rich cities

1579. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop culturally rich cities;

(b) if so, the cities identified for development; and

(c) whether Government propose to include Visakhapatnam also in view of its cultural heritage?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) A Scheme has been drawn up for rejuvenation of culturally significant cities. Preliminary work in this regard has been done and the detailed provisions of the scheme are under discussion with the State Governments and the Planning Commission. The scheme is likely to be given final shape shortly. Its basic objective is to ensure that these culturally significant cities become vibrant centres not only of civic life but also of economic, social and cultural advancement. The cities to be covered by the scheme would be decided in consultation with the State Governments but it is proposed as a general preposition to select at least one culturally significant town in each small State and two in the large States.

News-Item "Institutional premises being misused"

1580. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Institutional premises being misused" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated September 10, 2000; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appropriate action is being taken, wherever called for.